

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/656,258	BURROW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sing P Chan	1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment and argument dated December 9, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,8-26 and 29-31.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No. 9.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>1202004</u> |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael E. Martin on January 15, 2004 and January 23, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

31. A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article selecting from a group consisting of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, and memo pad having a cover part formed of a flexible material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing a sheet of flexible plastic material adapted to be receptive to multiple printed images on one side of said sheet of flexible plastic material;

transferring an image to be applied to said sheet of flexible plastic material to a processor;

causing said processor to control a printer for printing multiple images on said sheet of flexible plastic material;

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cutting multiple image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material along predetermined contours of said images, respectively;

placing at least one of said image sheets in contact with a substantially planar surface of said member; and

bonding said at least one image sheet to said member by engaging said at least one image sheet with a substantially planar die and applying RF energy to bond said at least one image sheet to said member whereby a substantially planar image is presented on said member.

Marked Version Showing Changes made

31. A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article ~~comprising one of~~ selecting from a group consisting of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag and, memo pad ~~or keyfob~~ having a cover part formed of a flexible material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing a sheet of flexible plastic material adapted to be receptive to multiple printed images on one side of said sheet of flexible plastic material;

transferring an image to be applied to said sheet of flexible plastic material to a processor;

causing said processor to control a printer for printing multiple images on said sheet of flexible plastic material;

cutting multiple image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material along predetermined contours of said images, respectively;

placing at least one of said image sheets in contact with a substantially planar surface of said member; and

bonding said at least one image sheet to said member by engaging said at least one image sheet with a substantially planar die and applying RF energy to bond said at least one image sheet to said member whereby a substantially planar image is presented on said member.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 8-26, and 29-31 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims recite a method of forming an article with printed image. The method includes providing a member formed of flexible material, providing a sheet of flexible plastic material receptive to multiple printed images on one side, transferring an image to a processor, controlling a printer to print multiple images on sheet of flexible plastic material, cutting multiple image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material along predetermined contours of images, placing image sheet in contact with planar surface of said member, bonding said image sheet to member by engaging the image sheet with a planar die and applying RF energy to debossing and bonding the image sheet to the member to form a planar indentation on the member (claims 1, 17, 29, and 30), which to form an article consisting of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, memo pad or keyfob (claim 31). Kuroda (U.S. 4,160,685) discloses a method of forming an appliqué

article. The method includes the steps of providing a foam plastic sheet member of thermoplastic material such as polyvinyl chloride, providing an imaged sheet of polyvinyl chloride by printing on the first surface of the imaged sheet, superimposed the sheet member and imaged sheet onto a base sheet, and bonding and indenting the member and the imaged sheet with a heating platen using high frequency, i.e. RF energy. (Col 3, lines 49-62, Col 4, lines 36-59) However, Kuroda debossing the member to form a planar indentation and to form a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, memo pad or keyfob. Aitkens et al (U.S. 5,380,044) discloses a method of forming an identification card. The method includes providing a member formed of flexible material, providing a sheet of flexible plastic material receptive to multiple printed images on one side, transferring an image to a processor, controlling a printer to print multiple images on sheet of flexible plastic material, cutting multiple image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material, placing image sheet in contact with planar surface of said member, bonding said image sheet to member by engaging the image sheet with a planar die and applying heat energy to embossing and bonding the image sheet to the member to form a planar member. However, Aitkens et al does not disclose using RF energy to deboss and bond the image sheet to the member, cutting the image along a predetermined contour of the image, and the article consisting of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, memo pad or keyfob. A search of the prior art of record did not disclose reference or references in combination with the recited features.

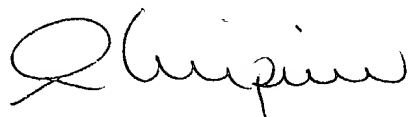
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sing P Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1225. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM-11:15AM and 12:15PM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard D Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


spc


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